

REMARKS

Claims 1-42 are pending in the application before the present amendments to the claims. Claims 1-6, 8-26, 30-34, and 38-42 stand rejected. Claims 7, 27, and 35 are objected to.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for the acknowledgement of allowable subject matter in claims 7, 27, 35, and 38.

Amendment to the Specification

Paragraph [0037] is amended such that the reference number associated with the directory/authentication server is consistent with FIG. 2.

The last line of page 24 (after claim 38) is deleted to remove stray language. Although this stray language is in the claims section of the specification, it clearly appears after the period that ends claim 38 and before the beginning of claim 39. Accordingly, the stray language is not part of claim 38 (or any other claim).

No new matter is added by the amendments to the specification.

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 7, 27, and 35 are canceled, and their respective subject matter is incorporated into their parent independent claims. Claims 39-42 are canceled without prejudice.

More specifically, claim 1 is amended to incorporate the elements of dependent claim 7 and to clarify that the mailbox is for organizing at least one of the messages in the message store. Support for this clarification, is found, for example, in paragraph [0039] of the specification.

Claims 4 and 5 are amended for clarity.

Claim 8 is amended to incorporate the elements of dependent claim 27 and to clarify that the second message server accesses replica messages of the second message

store. Support for this clarification, is found, for example, in paragraphs [0052] - [0053] and [0059] – [0060] of the specification.

Claims 28 and 29 are amended to now depend from claim 8 due to claim 27's cancellation.

Moreover, claim 30 is amended to incorporate the elements of dependent claim 35 and to clarify that the mailbox is replicated at the remote location if the user is roaming. Support for this clarification is found, for example, in paragraphs [0059] – [0060] of the specification.

Claims 36 and 37 are amended to now depend from claim 30 due to claim 35's cancellation.

Claim 38 is amended to correct a minor informality. An "and" has been added before the final semicolon clause before the period.

No new matter is added by the amendments to the claims.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112

Claim 38 stands rejected as being generally narrative and indefinite because the stray language "messages can be any type" appears in the specification after the period of claim 38. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because it is based on language that is not actually part of claim 38. As discussed above, the stray language, although within the claims *section* of the specification, clearly appears after the period that ends claim 38 and before the beginning of claim 39. Accordingly, the stray language is not part of claim 38 (or any other claim), and it is inappropriate to reject claim 38 on the basis of the stray language. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the section 112 rejection of claim 38 should be withdrawn. Nevertheless, Applicants appreciate the Examiner's pointing out this specification error, which would have justifiably warranted an objection to the specification. This error has been corrected, as described above.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 30-34 stand rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,115,455 to Picard ("Picard"). Applicants do not concede that these claims read on the cited reference. Nevertheless, in order to expedite prosecution of the subject application, Applicants amend claim 30 to include the allowable subject matter of claim 35. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 30 is allowable and request the withdrawal of the rejection of claim 30 at least based on this amendment.

Claims 31-34 depend from claim 30 and are allowable for at least this reason. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 31-34.

Claims 39 and 40 stand rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,742,668 to Pepe et al. and claims 39-42 stand rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,389,276 to Brilla et al. Applicants do not concede that these claims read on the cited references. Nevertheless, in order to expedite the prosecution of the subject application, Applicants cancel claims 39-42 without prejudice.

Claims 1-5, 8-16, 18, 21, and 25 stand rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,987,100 to Fortman et al. ("Fortman"). Applicants do not concede that these claims read on the cited reference. Nevertheless, in order to expedite prosecution of the subject application, Applicants amend claim 1 to include the allowable subject matter of claim 7, and Applicants amend claim 8 to include the allowable subject matter of claim 27. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1 and 8 at least based on their respective amendments.

Claims 2-5 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least this reason. Claims 9-16, 18, 21, and 25 depend from claim 8, and are allowable for at least this reason. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejections of claims 2-5, 9-16, 18, 21, and 25.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

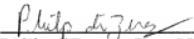
Claim 6 stands rejected as being unpatentable over Fortman in view of Picard; claims 17, 19, and 20 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Fortman in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,829,334 to Zirngibl et al.; claim 22 stands rejected as being unpatentable over Fortman in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,524,137 to Rhee; claim 24 stands rejected as being unpatentable over Fortman in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,876,729 to Kuter et al.; claim 23 stands rejected as being unpatentable over Fortman in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,740,231 to Cohn et al.; and claim 26 stands rejected over Fortman in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,751,298 to Bhogal et al. Applicants do not concede that these claims read on the cited references. Additionally, as discussed above, allowable subject matter has been incorporated into each of the base claims from which all of these claims depend. Accordingly, claims 6, 17, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24, and 26 are allowable for at least these reasons, and Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejections of these claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above Remarks and the amendments to the specification and claims, Applicants have addressed all issues raised in the Office Action dated 19 February 2008, and respectfully solicit a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims. Should any issues remain, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney.

Applicants believe no fees are due in connection with this Amendment and Response. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee deemed necessary in connection with this Amendment and Response to deposit account 12-0600, referencing the Attorney Docket Number 406293.

Respectfully submitted,

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